

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:
receiving metadata associated with a media stream from a remote database; and
in response to said metadata, adjusting masking elements of a display screen.

2. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said adjusting further comprises adjusting said masking elements in order to accommodate an on-screen display.

3. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:
adjusting masking elements of a display screen in response to input from a viewer; and
sending information associated with said masking elements to a remote database.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said metadata comprises:
a specified aspect ratio associated with said media stream; and
an adjustment from a known aspect ratio to said specified aspect ratio.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said adjusting further comprises automatically controlling one or more physical masks.

6. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:
presenting a media stream having an aspect ratio on a display screen;
receiving information from a source external to the media stream, said information relating to said aspect ratio; and
adjusting a viewable area of said display screen in response to said information.

7. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 6, wherein said adjusting comprises automatically moving masking.

8. Canceled.

9. Canceled.

10. (Withdrawn) A method, including steps of
recognizing a media stream with a first aspect ratio and user-interested viewable portion R embedded in a media stream having a second aspect ratio S, where S > R,
whereby presentation of the media stream can be expanded to a relatively larger region of a display screen; and
presenting the media stream in that relatively larger region.

11. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 10, wherein a technique for embedding the first aspect ratio R includes letterboxing.

12. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 10, wherein the first aspect ratio R is a known television standard.

13. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 10, wherein the second aspect ratio S is a known movie standard.

14. (Withdrawn) A method, including steps of recognizing an element to be presented within a media stream; and adjusting a target location for said element in response to an aspect ratio of that media stream.

15. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 14, wherein those steps of adjusting include adjusting masking of the display screen in response to said element and the media stream; and positioning the element in an effective display region not blocked by masking.

16. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 14, wherein said steps of adjusting include adjusting the aspect ratio in response to said element and the media stream; and

positioning the element in an effective display region not blocking any substantial portion of the media stream.

17. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 14, wherein said steps of adjusting include positioning the target location in an effective display region not blocked by masking.

18. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 14, wherein said steps of adjusting include positioning the target location in an effective display region not blocking any substantial portion of the media stream.

19. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 14, wherein that element includes at least one of: a caption, a closed-caption, a subtitle, a translation, a ticker feed.

20. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said metadata comprises a specific aspect ratio associated with said media stream.

21. (Withdrawn) A method, including steps of positioning some combination of masks and sidebars without regard for the aspect ratio of the media presentation, said positioning using absolute positional data values.

22. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 21, wherein said steps of positioning include compensation for projector overscan.

23. (Withdrawn) A method for adjusting the aspect ratio of a display including steps of

- identifying a media stream to be presented;
- querying a database for metadata associated with said media stream;
- parsing said metadata, said steps of parsing yielding one or more informational components;
- interpreting at least one of said informational components; and
- moving one or more display masks in response to said steps of interpreting, said display masks being capable of obscuring and revealing some portion of said display.

24. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 23, wherein said display masks include one or more physical objects.

25. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 23, wherein said display mask includes an area of displayed light, said light of at least one hue determined to reduce screen burning at a transition boundary between an adjacently displayed image stream.

26. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 23, wherein said steps of identifying include reading at least one DVD hash value, whereby a particular media stream is identified by computing said hash value as a part of said media stream and using said hash value as a key for said first database.

27. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 23, wherein
said steps of identifying include interpreting said metadata before beginning
presentation of said media stream at a bookmark; and
said steps of moving include moving said display masks before beginning
presentation of said media stream at a bookmark.

28. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 23, wherein
said steps of identifying include interpreting said metadata in response to
watchpoints in said media streams; and
said steps of moving are performed in response to decisions made at those
watchpoints.

29. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 23, wherein said metadata includes
some combination of: an aspect ratio, audio encoding specification, other device control
information.

30. (Withdrawn) Apparatus including
a database including information associating aspect ratio information with media
streams;
memory or mass storage capable of receiving that information in response to one
of those media streams; and
a masking controller capable of adjusting an aspect ratio of a display screen in
response to information in that memory or mass storage.

31. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said aspect ratio information is adjusted by an input from a viewer.

32. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the information associating aspect ratio information includes
a pre-selected aspect ratio; and
an adjustment from a known aspect ratio.

33. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said steps of adjusting include automatically controlling the position of one or more masks or sidebars.

34. (Withdrawn) A method of doing business, including steps of
providing access to information associating aspect ratio information with media streams; and
collecting a fee in response to those steps of providing access.

35. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 34, wherein said information associating aspect ratio information with media streams includes data for controlling some combination of a set of masks and a set of sidebars, said set of masks and set of sidebars adjusting the aspect ratio of the viewable portion of a display screen.

36. (Withdrawn) A physical medium including information readable by a
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computing device, the information including

a first media stream having a first aspect ratio R1, having been produced in response to a second media stream having a second aspect ratio R2, wherein

R1 > R2;

the first media stream is relatively larger than the second media stream; and

the first media stream does not include letterboxing.

37. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

adjusting an active area of a display in response to a media stream and a remote first database, said first database including information associating said media stream with aspect ratio information,

wherein said adjusting comprises manipulating a masking element.

38. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 37, wherein said active area of said display is a reflective portion of said display visible to a human viewer.

39. (original) A method as in claim 37, wherein said active area of said display is an illuminated portion of said display visible to a human viewer.

40. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 37, wherein said active area may be further adjusted in order to accommodate an onscreen display.

41. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 37, wherein said information

in said first database indicates a portion of a video frame occupied by a desired picture, wherein an active area of the display is adjusted to present the desired picture and exclude a remainder of the video frame.

42. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 37, wherein said information in said first database indicates a portion of a video frame occupied by a desired picture, whereby the active area of the display is adjusted by enlarging an image of said desired picture such that the active area contains the desired picture while excluding at least some portion of the video frame.

43. (original) A method as in claim 42, wherein said information in said first database indicates that at least one video frame is letterboxed.

44. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 37, including steps of identifying a particular media stream with reference to a hash associated with the media stream.

45. Canceled.

46. Canceled.

47. Canceled.

48. Canceled.

49. Canceled.

50. Canceled.

51. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
receiving metadata associated with a video stream from a first database; and
adjusting a the viewable area of a display, with reference to said metadata, in
order to accommodate a first and a second element of said video stream,
wherein said first database comprises information associating the first element of said
video the media stream with some combination of aspect ratio, horizontal size, vertical
size, resolution, anamorphic compression, and letterboxing.

52. (Canceled.)

53. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 51, wherein said viewable
area is adjusted using some combination of masks and sidebars.

54. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 51, wherein said first element
includes a motion picture and said second element includes at least one of: a caption; a
closed-caption; a subtitle; a translation; and or a ticker feed.

55. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 37, wherein said adjusting is responsive to a portion of the media stream being viewed.

56. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 37, wherein said adjusting is responsive to [[the]] triggering of one or more watchpoints.

57. (Withdrawn) A method for adjusting the aspect ratio of a display, the method including steps of

determining, from a media stream to be presented, the aspect ratio of said media stream;

calculating at least one informational component in response to said steps of determining;

moving one or more display masks in response to said steps of calculating, said display masks being capable of obscuring and revealing some portion of said display.

58. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 30, wherein said database includes information associating, with at least one media stream, some combination of at least one of aspect ratio information, horizontal size information, vertical size information, resolution, anamorphic compression, and letterboxing.

59. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 58, wherein said controller instructs movement of some combination of masks and sidebars, said masks and sidebars being capable of adjusting the active area of a display screen.

60. (Withdrawn) A method of doing business as in claim 34, wherein the steps of providing access include providing access to a database, the database including at least some information associating, with at least one media stream, some combination of at least one of aspect ratio information, horizontal size information, vertical size information, resolution, anamorphic compression, and letterboxing.

61. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 60, wherein said information includes data for controlling some combination of masks and sidebars, said masks and sidebars being capable of adjusting the active area of a display screen.

62. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said adjusting comprises displaying a color that minimizes burn-in in an inactive area of said display.

63. (Withdrawn) A method, including steps of automatically determining an aspect ratio of a media stream; and adjusting an aspect ratio of a display screen in response to said steps of automatically determining.

64. (Previously Presented) Apparatus comprising:
means for receiving metadata associated with a media stream from a remote database; and
means for adjusting masking elements of a display screen in response to said

metadata.

65. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as in claim 64, wherein said masking elements are further adjusted in order to accommodate an on-screen display.

66. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as in claim 64, further comprising:
means for adjusting said masking elements in response to an input from a viewer;
and
means for sending said input to the database.

67. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as in claim 64, wherein said metadata comprises:
a specified aspect ratio associated with said media stream; and
an adjustment from a known aspect ratio to said specified aspect ratio.

68. (original) Apparatus as in claim 64, wherein said means for adjusting includes automatically controlling one or more masks.

69. (Currently Amended) Apparatus, comprising:
means for presenting a media stream having [[a]] an aspect ratio on a display screen;
means for receiving information from a source external to the media stream, said information relating to said aspect ratio; and

means for adjusting a viewable area of said display screen in response to said information.

70. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as in claim 69, wherein said adjusting comprises automatically moving masking.

71. Canceled.

72. Canceled.

73. (Withdrawn) Apparatus, including
means for recognizing a media stream with a first aspect ratio R and user-interested viewable portion embedded in that media stream having a aspect ratio S not equal to R, whereby presentation of the media stream can be expanded to a relatively larger region of a display screen; and
means for presenting the media stream in that relatively larger region.

74. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 73, wherein the means for presenting includes letterboxing.

75. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 73, wherein the first aspect ratio R includes a known television standard.

76. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 73, wherein the second aspect ratio S includes a known movie standard.

77. (Withdrawn) Apparatus, including means for recognizing a first element to be presented within a media stream, said element having a different aspect ratio from a second element in said media stream; and means for adjusting a target location for said first element, in response to an aspect ratio of that second element.

78. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 77, wherein said means for adjusting includes

means for adjusting masking of a display screen in response to said first element and said second element; and

means for positioning the first element in an effective display region not blocked by masking.

79. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 77, wherein said means for adjusting includes

means for adjusting masking of the display screen in response to said first element and said second element; and

means for positioning the first element in an effective display region not overlapping any substantial portion of the second element.

80. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 77, wherein said means for adjusting includes means for positioning the target location in an effective display region not blocked by masking.

81. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 77, wherein said means for adjusting includes means for positioning the target location in an effective display region not overlapping any substantial portion of the media stream.

82. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 77, wherein that element includes at least one of: a caption, a closed-caption, a subtitle, a translation, a ticker feed.

83. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as in claim 64, wherein said information comprises a specific aspect ratio associated with a specific media stream.

84. (Withdrawn) Apparatus, including means for automatically positioning some combination of masks and sidebars associated with a media presentation display screen, without substantial regard for the aspect ratio of the media presentation, said positioning using substantially absolute positional data values associated with said media presentation.

85. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 84, wherein said means for positioning includes compensation for projector overscan.

86. (Withdrawn) Apparatus for adjusting the aspect ratio of a display including means for identifying a media stream to be presented; means for querying a database for metadata associated with said media stream; means for parsing said metadata, said parsing yielding one or more informational components; means for interpreting at least one of said informational components; and means for moving one or more display masks in response to said interpreting, said display masks being capable of obscuring and revealing some portion of said display.

87. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 86, wherein said means for identifying includes reading at least one DVD hash value, whereby a particular media stream is identified by computing said hash value as a part of said media stream and using said hash value as a key for said first database.

88. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 23, wherein said means for identifying include means for interpreting said metadata in response to watchpoints in said media streams; and said means for moving are performed in response to decisions made at those watchpoints.

89. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 86, wherein said means for identifying includes identifying media streams at watchpoints.

90. (Withdrawn) Apparatus of claim 86, wherein said metadata includes some combination of: an aspect ratio, audio encoding specification, other device control information.

91. (Currently Amended) Apparatus comprising:
means for receiving metadata associated with a media stream from a remote first database, said metadata comprising at least two of: some combination of aspect ratio information[[,]]; horizontal size information[[,]]; vertical size information[[,]]; resolution[[,]]; anamorphic compression[[,]]; and letterboxing; and
means for adjusting an active area of a display in response to said metadata, said adjusting comprising manipulating a masking element.

92. (original) Apparatus as in claim 91, wherein said active area of said display is a reflective portion of said display visible to the human viewer.

93. (original) Apparatus as in claim 91, wherein said active area of said display is an illuminated portion of said display visible to a human viewer.

94. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as in claim 91, wherein said active area may be further adjusted in order to accommodate an onscreen display.

95. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as in claim 91, wherein said metadata

indicates a portion of a video frame occupied by a desired picture, wherein said active area of the display is adjusted to present the desired picture and exclude a remainder of the video frame.

96. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as in claim 91, wherein said metadata indicates a portion of a video frame occupied by a desired picture, whereby said active area of the display is adjusted by enlarging an image of said desired picture such that the active area contains the desired picture while excluding at least some portion of the video frame.

97. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as in claim 96, wherein said metadata indicates that at least one video frame is letterboxed.

98. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as in claim 91, further comprising:
means for identifying a particular media stream with reference to a hash
associated with the media stream.

99. Canceled.

100. Canceled.

101 Canceled.

102. Canceled.

103. Canceled.

104. Canceled.

105. (Currently Amended) Apparatus, comprising:

means for receiving metadata associated with a video stream from a first database;

and

means for adjusting ~~a~~ the viewable area of a display, with reference to said metadata, in order to accommodate a first and a second element of said video stream in response to said metadata, said metadata comprising information associating the first element of ~~said video~~ ~~the media~~ stream with some combination of aspect ratio, horizontal size, vertical size, resolution, anamorphic compression, and letterboxing.

106. (Canceled.)

107. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 105[[106]], wherein said active area is adjusted using some combination of masks and sidebars.

108. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 105, wherein said second element includes a motion picture and said first element includes at least one of: a caption; a closed-caption; a subtitle; a translation; and ~~or~~ a ticker feed.

109. (original) Apparatus as in claim 91, wherein said means for adjusting are also responsive to at least a portion of the media stream being viewed.

110. (original) Apparatus as in claim 91, wherein said means for adjusting are also responsive to triggering of one or more watchpoints.

111. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as in claim 64, wherein said means for adjusting comprises means for displaying a color that minimizes burn-in in an inactive area of said display.

112. (Withdrawn) Apparatus including
means for automatically determining an aspect ratio of a media stream; and
means for adjusting an aspect ratio of a display screen in response to said means for automatically determining.

113. (Withdrawn) A physical medium including information readable by a computing device, the information signal incorporating a set of metadata associated with a media stream.

114. (Withdrawn) A physical medium as in claim 113, wherein the metadata includes instructions interpretable by a viewer device.

115. (Withdrawn) A physical medium as in claim 114, wherein the viewer device includes at least one of the following: a mask controller, one or more lights, one or more fans, one or more audio systems, one or more heating systems, one or more cooling systems.

116. (Withdrawn) A physical medium as in claim 113, wherein the metadata is updateable.

117. (Withdrawn) A physical medium as in claim 116, wherein the update is responsive to one or more user inputs.

118. (Withdrawn) A physical medium as in claim 113, wherein the metadata is generated, at least in part, in response to the media stream.

119. (Withdrawn) A physical medium as in claim 118, wherein the metadata includes at least one aspect ratio associated with the media stream.

120. (Withdrawn) A physical medium as in claim 113, including information describing a request identifying the media stream; wherein the metadata includes at least one aspect ratio associated with the media stream.

121. (Withdrawn) An information signal as in claim 113, including

information describing a response including at least some of the metadata; wherein the metadata includes at least one aspect ratio associated with the media stream.

122. (Withdrawn) A physical medium including information readable by a computing device, the information including
a set of displayable reference rectangles;
the rectangles each predisposed to an aspect ratio; and
the aspect ratio being selectable by an operator.

123. (Withdrawn) A physical medium including information readable by a computing device, the information signal including
one or more mask values, having been produced in response to the manual positioning of one or more masks;
one or more sidebar values, having been produced in response to the manual positioning of one or more sidebars; and
a combination of said mask values and said sidebar values generating an aspect ratio.

124. (Withdrawn) Apparatus including
means for generating positional data for a set of masks and sidebars, said means for generating responsive to manual positioning of said set of masks and sidebars by an operator;

means for calculating an aspect ratio from said positional data; and
means for storing said positional data in a database.

125. (Previously Presented) Apparatus comprising:
means for generating a request, said request indicating a media stream available
from a first server;
means for transmitting said request from said first server to a second server; and
means for identifying at least one media stream and at least one set of metadata
associated with said request, said metadata including at least one set of aspect ratio
information.

126. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as in claim 125, further comprising:
means for generating a response in answer to said request, said response including
at least one set of aspect ratio information;
means for transmitting said response from said second server to said first server;
means for parsing said response, said parsing extracting said at least one set of
aspect ratio information from said response;
means for interpreting said aspect ratio information at a mask controller; and
means for moving a set of masks responsive to said interpreting.

127. (Withdrawn) Apparatus including
means for analyzing a media stream, said analyzing generating positional data
indicating a user-interested viewable portion and a user-uninterested viewable portion;

and

means for placement of a set of masks responsive to said positional data, said placement obscuring said user-uninterested viewable portion.

128. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 29, wherein a portion of said metadata is used to control one or more lights.

129. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 29, wherein a portion of said metadata is used to control one or more cooling systems.

130. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 29, wherein a portion of said metadata is used to control one or more audio systems.

131. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 90, wherein a portion of said metadata is used to control one or more lights.

132. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 90, wherein a portion of said metadata is used to control one or more cooling systems.

133. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 90, wherein a portion of said metadata is used to control one or more audio systems.

134. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 6, further comprising:

maximizing usage of said display screen in response to presence in the media stream of a picture having an alternate aspect ratio differing from said aspect ratio.

135. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 10, including steps of sending information describing that relatively larger region to the database.

136. (Withdrawn) A method, including steps of recognizing a media stream with a first aspect ratio and user-interested viewable portion R embedded in a media stream having a second aspect ratio S not equal to R, whereby presentation of the media stream can be expanded to a relatively larger region of a display screen; and presenting the media stream in that relatively larger region.

137. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 136, including steps of sending information describing that relatively larger region to the database.

138. (Withdrawn) A method, including steps of recognizing an element to be presented within a media stream, said element having a different aspect ratio from said media steam; and adjusting a target location for said element in response to an aspect ratio of that media stream.

139. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 138, including steps of sending

information describing that adjusted target location to the database.

140. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 21, including steps of determining those absolute positional data values in response to a remote database.

141. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 28, including steps of prefetching said metadata before making decisions at those watchpoints.

142. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 28, including steps of predicting results of decisions at those watchpoints.

143. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 30, including a communication channel coupled to that masking controller and to that database, and capable of sending information describing that adjusted aspect ratio to the database.

144. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 69, including means for maximizing usage of the display screen in response to presence in the media stream of a picture having an aspect ratio R3, with R3 not equal to R1.

145. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 84, including means for determining said values in response to a remote database.

146. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 88, including steps of prefetching said

metadata before making decisions at those watchpoints.

147. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 88, including steps of predicting results of decisions at those watchpoints.